

Annex

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Daily Report

MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

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FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi on Possibility of Another U.S. Raid
PM161442 Paris PARIS MATCH in French 17 Oct 86
pp 38,39 - FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Interview with Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi by Pierre Hurel — date and place not given]

[Text] *Paris Match*: At the beginning of September the imminence of another U.S. attack on Libya was front-page news in the American press. At the same time General Walters, President Reagan's special envoy, visited the European governments to find out about their attitude to such an eventuality. Do you think that Europe, and particularly France, would take part in another raid?

Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi: I do not think so. The first American raid was a fiendish act and the whole world condemned Reagan. The European governments, aside from Britain, were not pleased with the American initiative. None of them would want to take part in another attack by the White House thug.

Paris Match: If such an attack was perpetrated, how would you react?

Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi: If the United States uses its military strength once again, I will be forced to look outside Libya and raise an army on a world scale — an army of fedayeen and commandos to crush the American empire. American fleets, intercontinental missiles, and nuclear bombs will be unable to combat this invisible army. There would be tens of thousands of clandestine warriors, each wearing the cloak of danger. No regular army can fight against a secret army. It is always secret armies that have destroyed empires. This statement is my final warning. I will not hesitate.

Paris Match: Do you mean that attacks will be perpetrated on American territory?

Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi: You should not ask me this question. We have not perpetrated any acts of terrorism in Europe or the United States. But if I decide to do so, no border will be inviolable.

Paris Match: And yet no terrorist commando group has yet struck inside the United States. It is Europe which is experiencing the violence....

Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi: It is the United States that wants the violence to be transferred to Europe. The United States is prepared to sacrifice Europe to defend itself. That is why it has deployed its medium-range missiles in Europe. It wants World

War III to be fought in your countries! The Europeans are unaware of what is happening or are obedient to the Americans.

Paris Match: If there is another U.S. attack on Libya, how would the Soviet Union react?

Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi: That is the Soviet Union's business.

Paris Match: What was Gorbachev's answer to your recent proposal to join the Warsaw Pact?

Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi: I called for the creation of a pact against imperialism that would be broader than the Warsaw Pact. It will be created.

Paris Match: What do you think of the forthcoming Reagan-Gorbachev summit?

Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi: It will be a failure, like all the previous summits. The Soviet Union wants to halt the arms race for the sake of its own interests. The United States wants to extend its lebensraum over the whole earth. Peace does not interest the Americans. Reagan has told his friends that this summit is a historic opportunity for the United States to win a strategic victory over the USSR. Gorbachev will realize one day that he has been betrayed.

Paris Match: What was your reaction to the recent terrorist attacks in Paris?

Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi: I expressed my sympathy to the French Government over the victims of these acts. We were surprised at this wave of violence in France. I do not know what France has done to be the scene of such violence. Perhaps there are things about which we do not know.... The cause of all this is that France is involved in the Middle East conflict. And, just as France and other European countries train terrorist groups, the Middle East countries have their terrorist groups. Europe, as a democratic continent, gives asylum to Middle East oppositionists who are in fact terrorists. This is what has brought violence from the Middle East to European territory. This violence will not end until the Middle East conflict has been solved.

Paris Match: Do you know [Lebanese Revolutionary Armed Forces leader] Georges Ibrahim 'Abdallah?

Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi: This is the first time I have heard this name. Nobody is sure that it is his real name. And nobody is sure that a person known by this name exists.

Paris Match: What is your reaction to [French Prime Minister] Jacques Chirac's statements at the United Nations about Libyan interference in Chad?

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Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi: What did he say?

Paris Match: He condemned Libya for "its attempts at destabilization, its occupation of part of the territory, and, finally, its open military aggression..."

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi: But it is France that is responsible for the destabilization of Chad! It is France that must withdraw its troops! France is responsible for the destabilization of numerous African countries. It has organized coups in the Central African Republic, in Chad, in Congo, in Guinea, and in Niger. All former French colonies have experienced and will experience coups staged by France. This is because France wants certain kinds of regime and is prepared to sacrifice a country's stability to achieve this. But we will oppose this. If a French force returns to Chad, we will enter Chad. If France fights in Chad, we will fight. We will do this because our proximity puts us in the best position to guarantee Chad's peace and stability.

Paris Match: Do you want the partition of Chad?

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi: We are opposed to the partition of Chad. The law is on the side of the National Unity Transition Government. The Ndjamenia regime is illegal, it is a minority government protected by France. There is no government in Ndjamenia.

Paris Match: Could you intervene personally to secure the release of the seven [French] hostages in Lebanon?

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi: Who is holding these hostages?

Paris Match: I personally do not know... You are in a better position to know than I am!

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi: So many hostages have been released and so many have been killed that I do not have a very clear picture of the current situation in Lebanon. But if I could help secure their release I would not hesitate to do so.

Paris Match: You said recently with regard to the U.S. raid: "The Libyan people repulsed the 10th crusade." Do you regard yourself as the leader of the Arab people's historic revenge against the West?

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi: Crusader-style hatred of the Arabs is being revived in the West; it is ancestral hatred revived by the alliance with Israel. We must enlighten the world and reveal the existence of this religious pact against Islam — this racial pact against the Arabs. The crusades are not over and this revival is a disaster for civilization. We thought that the West had gone beyond the stage of religious fundamentalism and racial hatred. It is now reviving them.

Paris Match: The French in general tend to think that you are the aggressor....

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi: This is because I am one of the first to defend the Arabs against the West. The West thinks that the earth belongs to it and that men are its slaves. When the slaves struggle, the West regards them as enemies, insurgents, barbar-

ians, and terrorists. Somebody should restore the West's conscience either by a cultural revolution or a violent struggle.

Paris Match: Western espionage experts state that the U.S. raid in April destabilized your position inside Libya...

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi: I have not noticed anything.

Paris Match: Has nothing changed?

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi: Nothing.

Paris Match: And yet there is talk of a plot hatched inside the armed forces. Is this true? Has anybody been punished?

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi: The United States has trained terrorists that it has infiltrated into Libya. This has happened before, back in 1984: We found them in an apartment block manufacturing explosives and plotting attacks. They were all arrested. I know that the West and the United States are continuing to train terrorists to infiltrate them into Libya. The West is guilty of official terrorism against Libya and Syria. The terrorists who have perpetrated attacks against civilians in Syria were trained in the West. They are now in the FRG and Britain.

Paris Match: Do the French have reason to fear the Islamic Revolution — that of Libya, Iran, and Syria?

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi: The three cases are not comparable. The Libyan revolution is a national revolution that does not concern France. We would have carried out this revolution whether or not we had been Muslims. We are not living in the days of the wars of religion. The conflict is not between Muslim and Christian, but between the colonizer and the colonized.

Paris Match: Will you continue as Libyan leader for long or do you intend to retire one day?

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi: This is one of the things you do not understand: I have no official post. This is a Jamahiriyah (literally "of the people"), not a republic.

Paris Match: And yet you are called "the leader"! And it is your face which can be seen on posters throughout Tripoli.

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi: That is because I represent the Libyan people. The Libyan people are behind me and this makes me stronger than ever.

(Footnote) (The five questions Al-Qadhdhafi refused to answer:

— Does Georges Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine still have an office in Tripoli?

— What do you think of the presence in southern Lebanon of 1,400 French forces from the UN Interim Force in Lebanon?

— Will the Muslim Brotherhood play an important role in future?

— It is said that since the American attack on 14 April you have

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worn a bullet-proof vest in public, that you change your car several times a day, and that you never sleep in the same house two nights running.... Is this true? Are you afraid of an attack?

— What is the state of your health? Is it true that you take antidepressants every day?)